



# CONNECTION

July 2025

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President



## LPC Graduates Are Transferring To The Nation's Top Universities

Graduation season is always a special time at Las Positas College. Our campus fills with energy and pride as students cross the stage and families gather to celebrate. But this year's commencement felt especially meaningful.

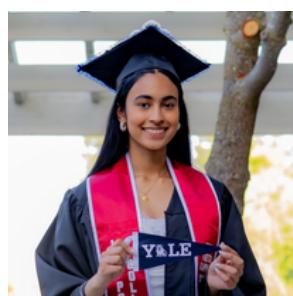
Three recent grads—Ishmeet, Stephanie, and Raza—are now heading to some of the most prestigious universities in the country: Yale, Columbia, and Stanford.

**Ishmeet Dhillon**, a graduate of Amador Valley High School, had initial doubts about starting at a community college. But through the Honors Program, she found her confidence and discovered a passion for public health. This fall, she's headed to **Yale**.

**Stephanie McManus** overcame financial and personal hardships to earn two associate degrees and acceptance to Columbia, UCLA, Berkeley and other top campuses. She's decided on **Columbia**.

**Raza Ali** made the bold choice to leave high school early to care for his grandmother. At Las Positas, he thrived—presenting research at national conferences and gaining admission to Berkeley, UCLA, and **Stanford**.

These are just a few of the remarkable LPC student stories. This year alone, three LPC students were admitted to Stanford, two to Columbia, one to Yale, 30+ to UC Berkeley and 20+ to UCLA. LPC students continue to prove that success can start close to home—and that community college isn't a compromise, it's a powerful academic and career launchpad.



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# LPC SUMMER JAZZ CAMP HITS THE HIGH NOTES



LPC hosted its annual Summer Jazz Camp on June 23-26 at the Mertes Center. Musicians of all skill levels immersed themselves in four days of intensive workshops—covering improvisation, music theory, and live performance—led by LPC’s own esteemed music faculty and alumni. This year’s theme honored the legendary Benny Golson.

The camp culminated in a lively public performance featuring student ensembles. LPC’s Music Department continues to support young musicians, offering programs like this camp that both educate and inspire. Interested students and parents are encouraged to watch for the next session and consider exploring the department’s full range of music certificates and degree pathways



## Las Positas College Hosts Global Wine Industry Reception



On June 20, Las Positas College welcomed winemakers and international guests to its new Viticulture and Winery Technology Center for an Industry Networking Social Hour, celebrating the formation of the Global Artisan Vintners Alliance (Global AVA).

The event brought together representatives from nine artisan wine regions across the world—including Portugal, France, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, Hungary, Texas, and California—for an afternoon of conversation, collaboration, and wine tasting. Guests had the opportunity to connect with fellow vintners, tour LPC’s state-of-the-art facility, and learn more about the goals of the alliance.

The Global AVA, led by the Livermore Valley Wine Community and Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, was formed to promote international cooperation around winemaking, sustainability, student exchanges, and economic development.

Sean Brooks, Vice President of Administrative Services, greeted attendees on behalf of the college, underscoring LPC’s commitment to supporting the local wine industry through education and partnership. The event marked one of the alliance’s first in-person gatherings and reflected Livermore Valley’s growing role on the global wine stage.

### LPC Mission

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students’ transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

### College Planning Priorities

Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.

Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes; coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.

Establish a knowledge base and appreciation for health and wellness in the workplace; create a sense of urgency about wellness; prioritize wellness in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to support wellness.